

Did You Know?

- In most of the world, secondary language learning is an integral part of students' education from an early age.
- In contrast, the majority of students in the U.S. do not begin studying a second language until high school.
- In Indiana:
 - 97 percent of high schools offer world languages
 - 31 percent of middle schools offer world languages
 - 2.3 percent of elementary schools offer world languages
- Of the one million students enrolled in Indiana's public schools, just over 135,000 students take a world language:
 - High school students: 43.8 percent
 - Middle school students: 9.7 percent
 - Elementary school students: 2 percent
- World languages offered at Indiana high schools include Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish and American Sign Language.
- Spanish is the most popular world language for Hoosier students in grades 9-12 with an enrollment of 96,003 students in the 2005-06 academic year.
- The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages notes the following advantages to learning a second language at an early age:
 - Has a positive impact on intellectual growth, mental development, and academic performance
 - Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language
 - Opens doors to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries
 - Increases job opportunities in many careers where knowing another language is a real asset
- There are more than 850 foreign-owned companies from 30 countries operating in Indiana.
- According to a report produced by Indiana University, the Indiana's exports increased at a greater rate than the nation as whole in 2005, reaching an all-time high of \$21.5 billion. Indiana traded with a record 198 countries that year.
- Indiana's exports to China increased by 42 percent increase that year.
- France, Australia, and the Korean Republic showed increases of more than 20 percent.
- Double-digit increases also were recorded for Canada, the United Kingdom, German, and the Netherlands.
- Since the 2005-06 academic year, the number of Chinese language programs offered by Indiana schools has more than doubled, from eight programs to over 20 programs.
- In the last two years, the Chinese Language student enrollment has grown 7 percent at Indiana public high schools (grades 9-12).
- Indiana is the first state to adopt grade-level standards specific to Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages for all grades K-12.
- The Indiana Department of Education has international education partnership agreements with France, Spain and Taiwan.
- International Education Week is Nov. 12-16 this year.

Visit www.doe.state.in.us/opd/worldlanguages for more information.

Source: *Indiana Department of Education*